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found in the *Memoirs*. On no occasion does he cloak his own shortcomings. The humor might easily have escaped the reader had it not been labeled; for instance in the following letter where he addressed Mrs. Adams as "My Best Friend," he said: "We had returned home, and were in session conversing together upon what had been passing in the conference, when Mr. Clay remarked that Mr. Goulburn was a man of much *irritation*. *Irritability*, said I, is the word, Mr. Clay, irritability: and then fixing him with an earnest look, and the tone of voice between seriousness and jest, I added 'like somebody else that I know.' Clay laughed, and said, 'Aye, that we do; all know him, and none better than yourself.' And Mr. Gallatin, fixing me as I had done Mr. Clay, said emphatically, 'that is your *best friend*.' 'Agreed,' said I, 'but one' — and we passed on in perfect good humor to another topic. There was, however, truth in the joking on all sides."

On many occasions he referred to the outcome in the peace of Ghent as more fortunate than they had hoped to procure. No subject of dispute between the nations had been settled and Adams while hoping for years of peace expressed the principle, today so familiar: "But the surest pledge that we can have of peace will be to be prepared for war" (p. 400).

Nowhere can there be found a more satisfying summary of the influence of the war on the development of America (pp. 314, 356, 357). Adams' own intense spirit of nationalism is prevalent on all occasions. The proceedings of the Massachusetts legislature was the "internal ulcer in our body politic." "But, at this moment," he exclaims, "how fearfully does this mad and wicked project of national suicide bear upon my heart and mind, when I have the profoundest conviction that if we now fail to obtain peace, it will be owing entirely to this act of the Massachusetts legislature."

European politics, diplomacy, and society are all subjects for discussion for the "romance" of the "Corsican Alexander" ran through its final chapters and was ended during these months. Some of his choicest expressions have to do with religion and education.

It is unfortunate even in an advance copy to find that pages 494, 495 and numerous others have exchanged places with 66, 67, 77, etc.

J. A. JAMES

*A great peace maker.* The diary of James Gallatin, secretary to Albert Gallatin, 1813-1827. With an introduction by Viscount Bryce. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1915. 314 p. \$2.50 net)

It is gratifying to students of history that during the year of the celebration of the centenary of peace between Great Britain and the

United States that volume v of the *Writings of John Quincy Adams and A great peace maker* have been published. Both of them give a more intimate account, than has heretofore been accessible, of the personalities of Adams and Gallatin, the two commissioners at Ghent whose services made the treaty of December 24, 1814, possible.

James Gallatin, eldest son and private secretary of Albert Gallatin, was admirably situated between the years 1813 and 1827 to give a picture of European society. During these years his father served as American commissioner at Ghent, minister to France, and minister to Great Britain.

The volume makes a good supplement to the writings of Gallatin. That statesman, in his dispatches and letters to friends, quite in contrast to Adams, rarely commented on happenings outside the round of his official duties. Some of the letters, here included, do not appear in Gallatin's *Writings*, edited by Henry Adams. The letters of Gallatin to Madam de Staël-Holstein and that to Alexander von Humboldt (pp. 40-45) are of value. The fact that Gallatin received private notes from the Duke of Wellington during the negotiations at Ghent is of interest. Especially is this true if there is foundation for the entry of February 13, 1815: "It seems it was mainly due to him that the English made the concessions they did and brought the matters to a speedy termination." A letter presented to Gallatin in 1815 which describes an interview with Napoleon Bonaparte on the island of Elba should also be noted.

The tributes of praise accorded at all times by the diarist to his father might easily be discounted if the statements made by John Quincy Adams were not in keeping with them. Evidently the tact, patience, self-control, and good humor of Gallatin in times of strain won victories over his colleagues and his opponents as well. His son wrote: "What has pleased me more than anything else is that these three great men — Lord Castlereagh, the Duke of Wellington, and Lord Liverpool — have unreservedly acknowledged that to his good sense, moderation and firmness the signing of the treaty was due" (p. 74). Adams wrote in 1815: "Without disparagement to any other of my late or present colleagues I consider him as having contributed the largest and most important share to the conclusion of the peace" (*Writings*, 5: 267). The diary seems to emphasize how well Gallatin was fitted to serve as the diplomatic representative of any nation. Possessed of a rare combination of personal qualities, he was, besides, a member of one of the oldest and most honored families of Switzerland, was distantly related to Madam de Staël and Benjamin Constant, and had known Voltaire intimately, and counted among his friends Alexander von Humboldt, La Fayette, and J. C. L. Sismondi.

Very completely the diarist, as a youth of seventeen, portrays the life of the *grande monde* of European capitals and five years later he declared: "I have not the slightest temptation to gamble about my one and only virtue." The diary, in general, bears evidence of its authenticity, although some alterations were made in 1869 (see p. 51). The second wife of Albert Gallatin was from Maryland and not New England, as stated by Viscount Bryce in the introduction (p. x).

J. A. JAMES

*George Hamilton Perkins, commodore, U.S.N.* His life and letters. By Carroll Storrs Alden, Ph.D., instructor in English, U.S. Naval Academy. (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin Company, 1914. 302 p. \$1.50 net)

The letters of Commodore Perkins, which form the basis of this biography, are interesting chiefly as revealing the routine that made up the life of the American naval officer before the day of the modern navy. Their author was born in 1836, educated (as far as he would permit, for he was dismissed for poor scholarship) at the new Naval Academy at Annapolis, and broken in by patrol duty on the Isthmian and the West African coasts. He was retired under age, because of heart trouble, in 1891, having followed the service into every corner of the seas. His career was uneventful, as naval careers go, save for his signal work at the battle of Mobile bay and the capture of New Orleans. After the latter engagement he was one of the spectacular two, Captain Theodorus Bailey being the other, who went ashore without escort and pushed their way through the angry populace of New Orleans to demand the surrender of the city. The book shows signs of having been written for the family interest, but the career that it describes was creditable and the story is worth telling.

F. L. P.

*A Walloon family in America.* Lockwood de Forest and his forbears, 1500-1848. Together with a voyage to Guiana, being the journal of Jesse de Forest and his colonists, 1623-1625. By Mrs. Robert W. de Forest. In two volumes. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1914. 314; 391 p. \$5.00 net)

Some librarians are said to find their greatest pleasure not in reading but in classifying a book. Certain readers find their interest maintained by the variety of subjects with which a book deals. To both of these groups of people the volumes before us will appeal, for they include bibliography, biography, description, history, and travel. Undertaken as the life-story of Lockwood de Forest, 1775-1848, the work developed